ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's Newsletter

Number 56. October, 1992.

BALTIMORE BOUND.

That's the place to be this coming May 13 to 16. It's the site of our Fifteenth International Convention, and to date, it looks like we're headed for another great get-together. In mid-September, your president travelled to Baltimore for an all-day meeting with Jerry and Mary Katz, our convention co-chaircouple, and Gloria and Ralph Lipfert, convention committee members. We first toured our head-quarters hotel, the Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore, to make sure the guest rooms and meeting and dining facilities were to our liking (and they were, as you'll note from the enclosed brochure). We then reviewed the promotional timetable and the tentative convention program, followed by an item-by-item discussion of the myriad details that must be scrupulously attended to in order for everything to go smoothly at convention time.

At this preliminary stage, we can tell you that plans are proceeding like clockwork, and Baltimore is bound to be a memorable convention setting. All you need do at the moment is note the dates of May 13 to 16, 1993, on you calendar, and then, in mid-January, when the registration materials reach you, hasten to make your reservation. All else to assure your good times is being taken care of by the ever-so-capable hands of Jerry and Mary Katz and their committee.

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EUREKA! ITS CATALOG TIME!

After a hiatus of many years, for reasons we decried but didn't have the wherewithal to remedy, we're back in the publishing business with a compilation of not one, not two, not three, but six separate catalogs, all reproduced and handsomely bound together in a style to match the catalogs published by ISASC in past years. Titled "A RETROSPECTIVE OF SCALE CATALOGS," the publication runs to 157 pages and includes the following: Pelouze (general, early 1900's); Pelouze (postal, 1911); Fairbanks (1859); Triner (1910); Buffalo (1894); and Jones of Binghamton (1885). It's been three months in the making, but we couldn't be more pleased with the end result, and now we're ready to offer it to our members as a most valuable addition to one's metrology library. The cost is a mere $30.00, including handling and shipping, and to facilitate your purchase of it, we've enclosed a handy order card, to be returned with a check made out to ISASC. Most importantly, we strongly suggest you not put off ordering it, as the economies of catalog publishing dictated a limited press run of 150, and when they're gone, it's unlikely there will be a rerun.

ABOUT COIN WEIGHTS, FROM THE EXPERT.

George Mallis, our foremost authority and prolific author on coin weights, has just completed the third volume of his series of books about the proposed standard designation of coin weights for various European realms. Volume III is now available to members, and what's equally good news, Volumes I and II, heretofore out of print, will be available to members who did not acquire them the first time around. Here, straight from George's pen, is what you should know about this special offer:

TO THE OWNERS -- AND WOULD-BE OWNERS -- OF VOLUMES I AND II OF THE PROPOSED STANDARD DESIGNATION FOR COIN WEIGHTS: Volume III of the series, "Proposed Standard Designation for Coin Weights -- The Coin Weights for the Gold Coinage of the German Empire and the Republic," including the Cities and States before the formation of the German Empire, will be available during the latter part of October, 1992. Volume III includes all of the gold coinage of all the individual kingdoms, dukedoms, episcopates and free cities. All in all, the gold

coinage of Germany and its subdivisions occupies about one third of the pages in Friedberg's monumental work, "Gold Coins of the World," which indicates the magnitude and scope of Volume III. This work encompasses 170 pages and follows the format of Volumes I and II.

In addition to a proposed standard designation for each gold coin issued in Germany, Volume III contains the basic coin weight information found in Volumes I and II so as to be complete within itself. Volume III has four new appendices indicating the weights and then values of each Germanic gold coin, characteristics of the Gold Ducat from 1280 to 1972, names and characteristics of each Germanic gold coin and, finally, photographs for the descriptions of the coin weights according to type. This latter appendix clearly shows an example of the coin weights noted and described in the text.

Volume III is hardbound in identical style and format as the previous two volumes. Only enough copies will be printed for those who pre-order. The cost of Volume III is $29.95, plus postage and insurance, which runs from $4.25 to $5.00 within the U.S. and Canada. Those who wish to order a copy are <u>not</u> to send payment now, but only an order request. Payment will be required when the book is shipped.

In response to requests from a number of coin weight collectors and dealers for copies of Volumes I and II, presently out of print, these two books will be reprinted sometime this late fall. Volume I encompasses the coin weights for the gold coinage of England, France, Spain and Portugal, and Volume II contains the designations for the coin weights of the silver coinage of England, Scotland, Ireland and Great Britain. Each book will be $29.95, plus postage as quoted above. To those who wish to order one or both of Volumes I and II, an order request is obligatory.

Please send order requests <u>only</u> (no money) for Volume I, II, or III to A. George Mallis, 788 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

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BENEFACTOR TIME APPROACHING.

You all know by now about the success of our Benefactor Program in 1992, and how it's provided us with added funds to satisfy the fiscal requirements of our Society. However, we hope we've made you sufficiently aware that our financial needs recur each and every year, and consequently, so does our need to rely on the Benefactor Program for its vital support.

Our Benefactor Program is a voluntary one, as it should be, but quite frankly, we're counting on those who contributed in 1992 to renew their contribution for 1993 (and taking it, of course, as an IRS-approved tax deduction), and we're hoping that those who did not participate in 1992 will see fit to do so for 1993. Because it's such an important adjunct to our Society's funding, we'll be sending a separate mailing in several weeks to our entire membership requesting their support -- continued or new -- and their immediate response. Meanwhile, thanks to all our Benefactors for their past consideration.

SCALE DATA IN THE WORKS.

During the past few months, we've been in touch with member Allen Yale, Jr. concerning a project he's undertaken which, when it reaches fruition, should be of keen interest to absolutely every member of our Society, bar none. It seems that Allen, while working on a dissertation on the E. & T. Fairbanks Company, sought to find a directory of North American scale makers, past and present. Unable to locate one, and concluding (rightfully, in our opinion) that none existed, he decided to computer-develop his own directory. He's already completed "round one," with admittedly much more research required before he's formulated a directory that would pass muster as being close to or 100% complete. However, his list of entries to date numbers well in excess of 100 manufacturers, and his data base includes considerable information about each manufacturer, such as city/state location, year(s) of origin and demise, types of scales made (by principle), and brand names of scales sold. As a start, Allen's availed himself of Census Bureau data from 1850 to 1890, and is hopeful that he can acquire additional information about scale manufacturers from a

number of our members. Any one who shares Allen's interest or has information he can use is encouraged to contact him. He's listed in the directory, and his current phone number (recently changed) is 802/766-5017.

UPDATE: JAPAN SCALE MUSEUMS.

It seems that in the last Newsletter we misinformed our readers when we talked about a scale museum in Tokyo, to which Dr. Shigeo Iwata, our eminent Japanese member, had escorted Eileen Park (or so we thought) during her Tokyo visit this past Spring. The fact of the matter, as Dr. Iwata most politely informed us, is that there is no scale museum in Tokyo, but rather, an establishment that he identified as the Tokyo Forlkcraft (sic) & Antique Hall, in which only one shop (of 33) carries scales. However, Dr. Iwata also told us that there are three scale museums elsewhere in Japan, the existence of which he clearly documented with literature, maps, and the like. Here, for those members who would like to know more, is the name of each museum, the size of its collection, and the city where it's located:

1) Matsumoto Scale Museum; 600 scales; Matsumoto.
2) Scale Museum; 2,000 scales; Yokkaichi.
3) Scale Museum; 600 scales; Amagasaki.

True to form, Dr. Iwata provided us with considerably more information about each, so if you'd like to know more, let us hear from you.

MARKETPLACE.

1. WANTED TO BUY. TIFFANY LETTER SCALE. Made by Tiffany Studios, New York, as part of bronze desk set. Any pattern. Top condition only. Matching stamp box also wanted (separately). Price open. WOLFGANG SCHILDE, Hanne Nute 83, 1000 Berlin 47, Germany. Tel: (30) 606 45 00.

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2. WANTED TO BUY. SCALE CATALOGS PUBLISHED BY ISASC. Interested in Fairbanks, Chatillon, Troemner, Howe, and others. Price open. GARY BUEHLER, 547 Rose Way, Collegeville, PA 19426. Phone: 215/986-3147 (days); 215/454-0674 (nights).

3. WANTED TO BUY. SET OF FOUR NESTED BRASS WEIGHTS. For fancy Roberval balance scale. 2 oz., 1 oz., 2/3 oz., and 1/2 oz. Diameter of 2 oz. weight measures 1-5/16". Price open. CAROLE THOMAS, 2760 South County Road, Apt. 401, Palm Beach, FL 33480. Phone: 407/967-1279.

4. FOR SALE. THREE POSTAL SCALES; ONE BABY SCALE. 1) Silo-shaped aluminum spring scale on bakelite base. Top unscrews to expose spring stem; inverts as letter plate. Quite novel and rare. $85. 2) Velvet-covered spring scale with curved face calibrated in cents and oz. Silver-plated top. Enclosed in box. Dodge City Scale Co. $90. 3) Hand-held steelyard scale and combination ruler/letter opener. White plastic. $10. 4) Salter baby scale. Cast iron base; calibrated face. Frame holds baby basket. $95. RALPH OR LOIS BEHM, Antique Market III, 413 West Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174; Phone 708/831-5997.

THE SAGA OF AN UNSUNG HERO.

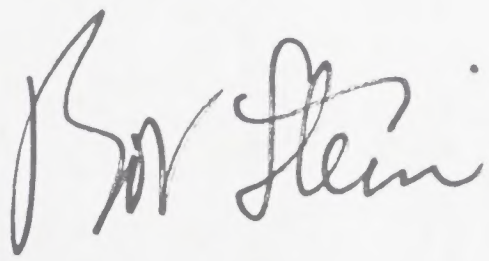
In this instance, member George Mallis, who, upon learning that Diana Crawforth-Hitchins was getting computer-involved in the preparation of our updated EQM Index, volunteered to help -- and that he did. First off, he entered the entire contents of the original Index (1978-1983) into his computer. He then pulled a 74-page, hard-copy manuscript and proceeded to proofread it three times(!) against the original, making all needed changes. Finally, bleary-eyed but satisfied, he produced a revised manuscript and compatible disc for Diana's use and a back-up disc for safekeeping, and sent it all off to yours truly for yet one more proofreading and shipment to England. Considering all that George keeps busy at these days, we're doubly grateful to him for so generously lending his time and talents to ISASC and our Index project.

MISCELLANY.

** Several months ago, we were pleasantly surprised to receive a call from new member Kelly Browning of Alexandria, VA, telling us he was Chicago bound and suggesting a breakfast get-together. The idea was very much to our liking and meet we did, over scrambled eggs. It turned out that Kelly is a beginning collector specializing in postal scales, and although he's ready to admit that the better postal scales are really hard to come by, what bodes well for his collecting future is the fact that his business brings him to London six to seven times a year. And this, in turn, enables him, by his own admission, to acquire one or two "nice ones" each trip. Before we said "goodbye," we suggested he pay a get-acquainted call on members Betty Wright and Aaron Traum, both of whom live a stone's throw from him (and who possess some truly superb postal scales), and also arrange to visit Diana Crawforth-Hitchins in Oxford and her exceptional collection of postal (and other) scales.

** Our apologies to Bill and Jan Berning for failing to note in their directory listing that Jan, indeed, is Bill's spouse and deserves equal billing (pun). Please enter this vital statistic in your directory, and next year look for it to be properly recorded. (And considering that theirs was an ISASC-engendered romance and marriage, we just might put their entire listing in boldface type!)

AND SO...

at this close-to-year's-end time, we end this missive with a year-end wish that you have a happy holiday season and the best of new years. We'll be back with another Newsletter and more news in January.

Fraternally,